

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending. Applicants elect with traverse Group I (claims 1-9) for examination on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in a further patent application.

Notwithstanding the above election, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested because examination of all pending claims would not constitute a serious burden. Thus, claims 10-26 should not be withdrawn from consideration.

In the alternative, Applicants disagree with the allegation in the Action that the pending claims lack unity of invention. Although they agree with the Examiner's conclusion that the inventions are separately patentable, Applicants' traversal is based on the pending claims being so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Therefore, Applicants submit that all the pending claims should be examined together in this application.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Gary R. Tangawa
Reg. No. 43,180

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100